

NECESSITY OF GOOD ROADS IS DISCUSSED BY PAGE

Government Expert Tells Bankers of Problems Arising From Modern Traffic.

BRANCH MAKES AN ADDRESS

Richmond's Veteran Banker Says He Would Rather Wear Out Than Rust Out—Addresses on Agriculture Are Well Received.

The vital importance of good roads was graphically pointed out to delegates here attending the fortieth annual convention of the American Bankers' Association in the address of Logan Waller Page, director, Office of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture, delivered at the morning session of the convention yesterday at the Jefferson Hotel auditorium. Mr. Page spoke interestingly of the numerous problems involved in road improvements and maintenance, and stated that the solution of these problems calls for the very best thought and efforts of specialists.

MODERN TRAFFIC CONDITIONS MAKE PROBLEM COMPLEX

"Modern traffic conditions have intensified to a remarkable degree, the difficulties attendant upon the adaptation of road surfaces to traffic requirements," he said. "Far-reaching questions as to the distribution of cost burdens so that they may rest equitably upon the shoulders of all who benefit by the improvement, occasion no little controversy among those who are striving for the development of our primary transportation facilities."

Explaining the magnitude of the problem, Mr. Page drew logical conclusions from his statements of existing conditions, and urged his hearers, individually and collectively, to wield whatever influence they may command in furthering the systematic and efficient improvement and maintenance of the public roads.

Making the point that haphazard tinkering with earth roads is a source of continual waste of money and is a constant object lesson to teach the necessity of competent supervision, Mr. Page said: "It was said by some one familiar with the conditions of the road work that the road forces to work the Virginia roads in the rear of his army. Grant would never have reached Richmond."

SOIL FERTILITY

"Soil Fertility: Greatest Necessity and the Best Investment," was the subject of an interesting address by Dr. C. G. Hopkins, department of soil, University of Illinois, Champaign, Ill., and director of the agricultural department of the Southern Settlement and Development Organization. Dr. Hopkins urged the assembled bankers to use their influence in an effort to induce the Federal government to spend more money for agricultural improvements and less for battleships and coast defenses. "When we take down our coast defenses," he said, and cease spending warships for destruction, then the income tax will at least be divided between the Federal departments for agricultural development and research. "Of great interest to the convention was the address of J. D. Eggleston, president of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg. "Educating the Producer" was his topic. He said efficiency is the cornerstone of the educational system.

NEED OF TRAINING FOR EFFICIENCY

"If anything is worth doing, it is worth doing well," the speaker said. "It is worth doing well, whether it is plowing a row of corn or reading Greek; whether it is planting potatoes in the garden or preaching righteousness to human hearts; whether it is painting a picture or painting a house; whether it is digging a ditch or performing an operation in surgery. It is best done when he who does it has been trained to do it with efficiency and with passion to do it better than it has ever been done before."

Urging the bankers to lend their assistance in helping to train the future by co-operating with the demonstration and extension work, President Eggleston said: "Your returns in helping to educate the producer will be enormous. No other single force can wield a greater power for good—for economic prosperity—than your association."

JOHN P. BRANCH

John P. Branch, president of the Merchants' National Bank, of Richmond, and a veteran member of the bankers' association, was called on for a special address before the adjournment of the convention yesterday. Mr. Branch extended a hearty welcome to the delegates to return to Richmond, and said it afforded him great pleasure to attend the convention. "I have been at work for over sixty years, and I am still at work," said Mr. Branch. "Of course, I am not able to do as much as I used to do, but I am constantly doing something. I would like to wear out than rust out. Mr. Branch was largely instrumental in bringing the bankers' convention to Richmond in 1900, and is a former member of the executive council.

WOMAN SLAPPED BY POLICEMAN IS Fined

Martha Booker, colored, the woman who was slapped by a policeman on several mornings ago led to the police station yesterday morning. She was charged with resisting the officer when he arrested her. The justice fined her \$10 and costs. The woman was released at the time of the incident, and the case was hurried from the court to avoid further trouble.

COLONEL POWELL HERE

In Distinguished Veteran of Confederate Indian and Philippine Service, Colonel Powell, United States Army, retired, a former resident of this city, is here on a brief visit to his many friends and relatives. It has been a long time since Colonel Powell visited his old home, and he is putting in a strenuous time renewing acquaintances.

Colonel Powell served for more than thirty years in the United States Army, during which time he was stationed at various remote frontier posts, and participated in nearly all the Indian campaigns of that period. He saw five years' service in the Philippine Islands, and was chief surgeon on the staff of General Lawton when that officer was killed in action.

The military career of Colonel Powell antedates his service in the regular army, he having enlisted as a youth in the Richmond Howitzers, with which he served throughout the War Between the States. He also has the unique distinction of being the only Confederate officer on the rolls of the United States Army, having entered under the provisions of a special act passed by Congress in 1878, rendered necessary by the account of his so-called "rebel record."

Recently the Senate passed a bill providing for the promotion of Colonel Powell to the grade of brigadier-general on the retired list, in recognition of his long and meritorious service. His friends here are working to have the Virginia Representatives press the bill through the House to an early passage.

Judgments Awarded. A judgment of \$76.25 was awarded yesterday in the Law and Equity Court in favor of the plaintiff Samuel W. Meek, of this city, against William B. West.

The case against Lillian Hill, colored, charged with selling liquor without a license, was yesterday continued until October 24 by Justice Crutchfield.

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